

absolute india



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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

NATION > 02
'Not Entitled': Centre opposes Bihar caste-based survey in SC ...



HOLLYWOOD > 06
Gigi Hadid is still enjoying 'single life'...



SPORTS > 07
World Athletics Championship: Parul sets national record in... ..

INDIA WILL BECOME ONE OF WORLD'S TOP 3 ECONOMIES IN THIS DECADE: PM

India will become one of the world's top three economies in this decade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, after virtually distributing around 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in government departments and organisations, under Rozgar Mela.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India will become one of the world's top three economies in this decade. When I give this guarantee, I will do that with full responsibility," he said.

Lauding the Jan Dhan scheme, which was launched on this day nine years ago, the Prime Minister said: "We launched Jan Dhan Yojana nine years ago on this day. Besides financial benefits, this scheme has played key role in job creation."

"From food to pharma, from space to startups, it is necessary for all sectors to grow for any economy. The pharma sector is growing at a fast pace and it will create huge job opportunities in the coming days. The automobile industry is also growing very fast. Both these industries are going to further develop in the coming days.



"The tourism sector is likely to contribute over Rs 20 lakh crore to Indian economy by 2030. It can create 13-14 crore new jobs." Modi went on to say that several changes have also been made in recruitment process for paramilitary

forces to open new avenues for the youth. "There is a lot of discussion on the importance of food processing industry these days. India's food processing market stood at Rs 26 lakh crore last year. In the next three years, this sector will be worth Rs 35 lakh crore," Modi said.

He further said that the nation is focusing on other electronic gadgets along with mobile phones. "We are about to repeat the same success in IT hardware production sector like we did in the mobile phone sector," the Prime Minister informed.



Putin conveys inability to attend G20 summit to Modi, to send Foreign Minister

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation on Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who conveyed his inability to attend the G20 summit in New Delhi, which is scheduled to be held on

September 9 and 10.

Putin informed Modi that Russia would be represented by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the G20 summit.

The two leaders reviewed progress on number of issues of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern, including

the recently concluded BRICS Summit in Johannesburg.

While expressing understanding for Russia's decision, Modi thanked Putin for Russia's consistent support to all initiatives under India's G20 presidency. The two leaders agreed to remain in touch.

I don't want any post, I only want to unite oppn parties: Nitish Kumar

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday reiterated that he did not want any post in the INDIA alliance, and only wanted to unite all the opposition parties.

Nitish Kumar made the remarks to mediapersons while visiting the Sri Krishna Memorial Hall in Patna along with his deputy Tejashwi Yadav. "I do not wish to get a post. I am repeatedly saying to give responsibility to others. I just want to unite every



opposition party. I want to work in the interest of everyone," the Chief Minister said. Earlier, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav had said that any one could become the convener of the INDIA opposition alliance.

Also addressing the reporters on Monday, Tejashwi said: "There is a possibility of making multiple conveners according to the regions. The mood of the country is something different now. Change will take place in the Centre. Our meeting of INDIA is scheduled in Mumbai where everything will be clear. We all are united and some more parties may join us in Mumbai." The third meeting of the alliance will take place in Mumbai on Thursday and Friday.

BJP TO LAUNCH FIVE 'JAN ASHIRVAAD YATRAS' AHEAD OF POLLS IN MP

AMIT SHAH WILL FLAG-OFF THE FIRST YATRA FROM THE CHITRAKOOT ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday announced that it will launch five 'Jan Ashirvaad Yatras' in five different regions ahead of the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will flag-off the first yatra from the Chitrakoot Assembly constituency in Satna district of Vindhya region on September 3, state BJP president V.D. Sharma said at a press conference on Monday.

Sharma said the other yatras will begin from four regions in Mandla (Mahakoshal), Khandwa (Nimad), Ujjain (Malwa), and Sheopur (Gwalior-Chambal) over the next five days. He stated the party has also requested defence minister Rajnath Singh and BJP chief JP Nadda to flag off the yatra



from separate places.

After covering 10,641 km, all these yatras will conclude in Bhopal on September 25. Importantly, this time all these yatras will be conducted without any particular leader leading them unlike in 2008, 2013, and 2018. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had led the yatras before the three previ-

ous polls. The BJP has been in power in Madhya Pradesh since 2003, barring 18 months between 2018 and 2020. Addressing the press conference, BJP leader and Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the party will raise awareness about the development work undertaken in Madhya Pradesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chouhan. "The party is going to retain power and the state will contribute to India's journey to becoming a developed nation by 2047."

He said the yatra has been decentralised as a new experiment to cover the maximum distance in 18 days. The previous such yatras spanned 90 to 92 days. "The yatras will cover 210 assembly constituencies and 10,641 kilometres."

Tomar informed that all the five yatras will culminate with a gathering in Bhopal and a 'Workers Mahakumbh' on September 25.

Ajit Pawar explains why he joined BJP-SENA government in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Beed

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday said that there are no permanent enemies and friends in politics adding that his faction joined the alliance of BJP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena to solve the problems of the people in the state.

While addressing a public rally in Beed, Ajit Pawar said, "We have joined Mahayuti (Ajit Pawar's alliance with BJP, Shinde-led Sena) to solve the problems of the people. In politics, there are no permanent enemies and no permanent friends. We want to tell everyone in Maharashtra that even though we are in the Mahayuti alliance, it is our duty to protect people of all castes and religions."

"We will always work for the benefit of the farmers. Farming does not happen without water



in the fields. I have done a lot of work when I was the Water Resources in the state," he added. Ajit Pawar said that he asked state agriculture

minister Dhananjay Munde to visit Delhi and meet key central leaders over the recent issue on onions in the state.

"When the onion issue came up, many people got calls. The opposition always gives wrong information. I asked Dhananjay to go to Delhi. Dhananjay went and requested maximum help. Home Minister Amit Shah immediately bought 2 lakh metric tonnes of onion at 24 per kg," he said. Earlier Maharashtra Congress Chief Nana Patole termed the Central government's recent decision to raise 40 per cent export duty on onions as "anti-farmer."

"They are lying to our farmers. My question is to Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Piyush Goyal, Why do you raise the export tax? Onions get stale and if the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India doesn't buy them immediately, farmers will be at a loss," Patole said.

Six killed in head-on collision between bus and car in Karnataka

Ramanagara | Agencies

In a tragic incident, six persons occupants of car were killed while another was seriously injured in a road accident near Kemmala Gate in Kanakapura taluk of Ramanagara district on Monday.

According to the police, the tragedy took place in a head-on collision between a bus attached to the Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and a Qualis car. All the deceased were travelling in the car.

While the passengers in the car were travelling to Bengaluru from the Male



Mahadeshwara Hill, a pilgrimage site, the bus was moving towards Malavalli from Bengaluru. The car was totally mangled in the accident in which a few passen-

gers in the bus also suffered injuries. The injured have been shifted to the Ramanagara district hospital. The identities of the deceased are yet to be ascertained.

ISRO to launch Aditya-L1 spacecraft to study the Sun on Sep 2 morning

Chennai | Agencies

After the Moon, it is the Sun for the Indian space agency. Days after landing India on the Moon safely, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be launching the country's first space-based observatory called Aditya-L1 to study the Sun at 11.50 a.m. on September 2.

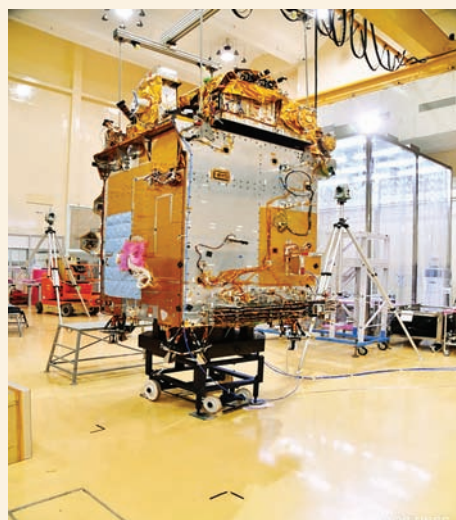
The Indian space agency has invited public to register in order to view the proposed launch from the gallery at the Sriharikota space port in Andhra Pradesh. The Aditya-L1 - named after the Sun God in Hindu mythology - will be carried by the Indian rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-XL variant (PSLV-XL), the ISRO said.

Initially, Aditya-L1 will be ejected in a low earth orbit (LEO). Then the orbit will

be elliptical. As the spacecraft travels towards L1, it will exit the earth's gravitational Sphere of Influence (SOI).

After exit from SOI, the cruise phase will start and subsequently the spacecraft will be injected into a large halo orbit around L1. The total travel time from launch to L1 would take about four months for Aditya-L1 and the distance will be about 1.5 million km from the Earth. The distance between the Earth and the Moon is about 3,84,000 km.

"A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/eclipses. This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real time," the ISRO said. According to the ISRO, the spacecraft



carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outer-most layers of the Sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle and magnetic field detectors.

"Using the special vantage point L1, four payloads directly view the Sun and the remaining three payloads carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the Lagrange point L1, thus providing important scientific studies of the propagatory effect of solar dynamics in the interplanetary medium," it said. Aditya-L1's seven payloads are expected to provide most crucial information to understand the problem of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities and their characteristics, dynamics of space weather, propagation of particle and fields and others, the Indian space agency said.

The ISRO said the major science objectives of Aditya-L1 mission are: Study of solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics, study of chromospheric and coronal heating, physics of the partially ionised plasma, and initiation of the coronal mass ejections, and flares.

It will also observe the in-situ particle and plasma environment providing data for the study of particle dynamics from the Sun. Other objectives are physics of solar corona and its heating mechanism, the diagnostics of the coronal and coronal loops plasma: Temperature, velocity and density, development, dynamics and origin of Coronal Mass Ejections (CME), to identify the sequence of processes that occur at multiple layers (chromosphere, base and extended corona) which eventually leads to solar eruptive events, magnetic.



'NOT ENTITLED': CENTRE OPPOSES BIHAR CASTE-BASED SURVEY IN SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday was told by the Union government that nobody except it is entitled to conduct a census or any exercise akin to a census.

A short affidavit was filed by the Office of the Registrar General from the Union Home Ministry in response to the batch of pleas challenging the caste-based survey in Bihar placing the constitutional and legal position for consideration of the top court.

It said that the subject of census is covered in the Union List under Entry 69 in the VII Schedule of the Constitution and the the Census Act, 1948 "empowers only the Central Government to conduct the census".

"It is submitted that no other body under the Constitution or otherwise (except Centre) is entitled to conduct the exercise of either Census or any action akin to census," the affidavit stated.

It also clarified that the Central government is committed to take all affirmative actions for upliftment of SCs/STs/SEBCs and OBCs in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India and other applicable laws.

On August 21, the Supreme Court allowed the Union government a period of one week to file its reply after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that he wanted to place on



record the constitutional and legal position as the matter will have "ramifications".

The clutch of special leave petitions in Supreme Court challenges the Patna High Court's order dismissing pleas challenging the caste-based survey in Bihar.

The pleas could not be listed on Monday but were scheduled to be heard on August 28.

The petitioners before the apex court argued that the survey process violated the privacy law and only the Union government had the authority to conduct a census in India, adding that the state government had no authority to decide and notify the conduct of caste-based survey in Bihar. The top court had repeatedly refused to pass any interim order staying the survey process or publication of the outcomes of the survey, though it was contended that the matter will become infructuous post publication of the data.

The Nitish Kumar-led state government has said that the caste-based survey in Bihar is complete and will be out in public soon.

In its order passed on August 1, the Patna High Court, while dismissing the batch of pleas, had given green signal to the state government's decision to conduct the survey.

The Bihar government resumed the process on the same day following the high court verdict while directing completion of the remainder of the survey process within three days.

Earlier, the high court had ordered an interim stay on the survey which had started on January 7 this year and was scheduled to be completed by May 15. "We find the action of the state to be perfectly valid, initiated with due competence, with the legitimate aim of providing 'Development with Justice'," the high court had said later while dismissing the batch of pleas.

Gehlot appears in Delhi court in defamation case filed by Gajendra Shekhawat

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday again appeared in Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court through video conferencing in the defamation case filed by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Gehlot's lawyers presented an application on his behalf in the court, and said that the complainant in the case is not appearing for three hearings. In such a situation, the Rajasthan CM should be acquitted in this case.

His lawyers also presented the decisions of other courts in front of the court. They said, "It is necessary for the complainant to be present in the case of defamation. He (Shekhawat) is also not appearing in court for three consecutive appearances."

The court will now hear Gehlot's application on September 6.

Shekhawat had claimed defamation in the case of Gehlot accusing him and his family of being involved in the Sanjeevani scam. In the same case, the Rouse Avenue Court had issued summons against Gehlot on July 6.

Gehlot had filed a revision in the sessions court. He did not get relief from there. However, the CM was allowed to appear through video conferencing in the Revision Court. Since then, Gehlot has appeared in the



court three times through video conferencing. About five months ago, Shekhawat presented a defamation claim against Gehlot for his statement about his family in the Sanjeevani scam. Gehlot had said after the budget review meeting at the secretariat on February 21 that the entire family including Gajendra Singh's parents, wife is involved in the Sanjeevani scam.

Ban on basmati export discriminatory, says Sukhbir Badal

Chandigarh | Agencies

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Badal on Monday urged the Union government to review its decision to effectively ban export of rice, terming it "discriminatory".

"Every time our farmers stand to profit from an increase in global rice prices, the Centre bans its export. This is discriminatory. The ban needs to be revoked immediately," he said, reacting to the ban imposed on basmati rice valued at less than \$1,200 per metric tonne which the government claims is aimed at stopping the export of non-basmati rice by reclassifying the same.

"This will, however, have an impact on even export of basmati rice," he said.

Stating that this was another anti-farmer decision on the heels of ban on export of non-basmati rice and levy of 20 per cent duty on export of par-boiled rice, Badal said that "instead of such bans, the Union government should hike the minimum support price (MSP) of paddy to aid the food security needs of the country".

Asserting that farmers had been dealt a double whammy by being forced to sell their paddy crop at a lower MSP compared to world prices, Badal said that "now when they



stand to benefit due to high export price of rice, export of this commodity has been banned".

He said earlier farmers had been denied the benefits of an increase in wheat prices globally with the Central government banning wheat export last year.

"Farmers desperately need higher prices to offset the loss due to flooding which has forced many of them to go in for re-transplantation of paddy when the first crop was destroyed. With no fair compensation for their crop losses in sight with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government failing to even complete the 'girdwari' exercise, the ban on export of rice as well as exorbitant duties on par-boiled rice will heighten the farm crisis in the state."

Maharashtra Shetkari Dal, Chautala's INLD likely to attend 3rd INDIA alliance meet in Mumbai

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The number of the parties is all set to increase in the third meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in Maharashtra's Mumbai on August 31 and September 1, which will also be attended by Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

Party sources said that the Haryana-based Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) led by former chief minister O.P Chautala is likely to be part of the INDIA alliance.

Sources said that Chautala's party and his leaders are likely to join the meeting in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1.

It is worth to mention that Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar shares a close bond with Chautala.

During his visit to the national capital in September last year, Nitish Kumar along with his party general secretary KC Taygi had reached at



Chautala's residence in Haryana's Gurugram.

Earlier, party sources had confirmed the participation of Maharashtra Shetkari Dal in the INDIA meeting. With the two more parties participating in the INDIA meeting, the number of parties will increase to 28. Besides the two parties, some other regional parties from Uttar Pradesh, Assam and other states are also in touch to be part of the INDIA alliance.

Sources said that Sonia Gandhi will again participate in the third meeting in Mumbai.

They said that Sonia Gandhi along with Rahul Gandhi and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge will be participating in the programme to launch the Gruha Lakshami scheme in Karnataka's Mandya on September 30 and from there they will be arrive in Mumbai for the third meeting.

The first meeting of the INDIA alliance in Bihar's Patna had wit-

nessed the participation of 16 parties.

However, in just a span of less than a month the INDIA alliance grew to 26 in the second round of meetings in Karnataka's Bengaluru between July 17 and 18. During third meeting decision will be taken on sub-committee and group public meeting for the alliance at the state level.

The INDIA alliance is planning to corner the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ahead of the crucial 2024 Lok Sabha elections scheduled next year. The source said that formation of the sub-committee will help in the functioning of the alliance to take on the BJP. In the Mumbai meeting of INDIA, a decision is to be taken regarding the national convener of the alliance. However, many leaders feel that instead of creating the post of the national convener, a sub-committee from multiple parties can handle the position, which will also work to decide the programmes and play an important role of coordination among the parties.

HARYANA GOVT ALLOWS 'SHOBHA YATRA' IN NUH AMID HEAVY SECURITY

Gurugram | Agencies

The Haryana government has allowed 15 Hindu religious figures and leaders of right-wing groups to hold the 'Shobha Yatra' in Nuh demanded by the 'Sarv Jatiya Hindu Mahapanchayat' on a small scale, even as the district was transformed into a virtual fortress with a heavy cover of security.

The 'Shobha Yatra' was allowed on a small scale to proceed to the Shiv Temple in Nalhar even as several Hindu saints and devotees who had arrived from other states were prevented from entering Nuh district.

The yatra was attended by International Working President VHP Alok Kumar, Prant President Pawan Kumar, 'prant' Pracharak (RSS) Vijay, president of 52 'pals' Arun Zaidar and 12-member representatives of Sarv Hindu Samaj and other senior work-



ers and local workers of the VHP. After the communal riots on July 31, authorities had refused permission for the yatra on Monday.

On the final Monday of the holy month of Shraavan, people were, nonetheless, permitted to offer prayers in the temples nearby.

In light of the yatra's call, extensive security measures have been put in place, and several seers travelling to Nuh were stopped at Gurugram, according to police officials.

From the Delhi-Gurugram border to Nuh, five significant checkpoints were put in place. Even vehicles

belonging to the media were not permitted to pass through the third one.

"Locals have been performing prayer and Jalabhishek since last Monday. We cannot stop anyone from doing religious things. We did not allow outsiders to come here in huge numbers. Locals performed Aarti and Jalabhishek in Nalhad temple without any problem," Mamta Singh, ADGP Law and Order, told IANS. The vehicle of Hindu seer Jagatguru Paramhans Acharya, who was travelling from Ayodhya, was reportedly halted at the Ghamorj toll booth close to Sohna. Acharya told the media that the police had stopped him and his followers as they were bringing the Saryu river's water and the soil of Ayodhya for the 'Jalabhishek' at the Nalhar temple. He was near the toll booth when he went on a hunger strike in protest.

Someone messaged me threatening to arrest Abhishek Banerjee: Mamata

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday claimed that she had received a message from an unknown person threatening to arrest Trinamool Congress national general secretary and the party Lok Sabha member Abhishek Banerjee.

"I received a message yesterday from someone who said that Abhishek will soon be arrested as all evidence from his computer had been retrieved. Yes they have retrieved some files from the computer and planted their own files there. But we are not fools. We have also extracted



all the evidence of planting files which were not there in the computer. A general diary has also been filed in the matter," the chief minister said while addressing a gathering on the occasion of the foundation day of Trinamool Chhatra Parishad, the students wing of the party.

She indirectly referred to a complaint filed with the cyber cell of Kolkata Police by an employee of a corporate entity linked to Sujay Krishna Bhadra, the prime accused in the school job case in West Bengal. The complainant has accused the Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths of "planting evidence" while conducting raids at the said corporate entity in south Kolkata in the first two days of the last week. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister also launched a scathing attack against the West Bengal Governor, C.V. Ananda Bose accusing the latter of making attempts to run a parallel administration in the state.

Five arrested in Madurai train coach fire case



Chennai | Agencies

Five people, including four operators and a cook, were arrested in connection with the Madurai train coach fire which claimed the lives of nine Uttar Pradesh pilgrims travelling to Rameswaram.

Sathyaprakash, Narendra, Kardish Sakhani, Deepak and

Sukum Kashyap were arrested by the Government Railway Police.

They have been booked under Sections 302, 304 and 285 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 164 of Indian Railway (IR) Act.

According to sources, they will be produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate court in Madurai.

Notably, a tourist coach in the Lucknow-Rameswaram express that was stabled at Madurai outer yard caught fire on Saturday morning leading to the death of nine persons and grievous injuries to many others.

The cause of the fire was found to be an illegally boarded gas cylinder exploding in the coach while the cook was trying to make tea.

There were 55 tourists and eight staff in the coach and nine people lost their lives in the fire mishap. The Railway and local police had difficulties in identifying the bodies of the deceased as the dead were charred beyond recognition.

Since many of the pilgrims were away at the time of the mishap, police could not ascertain the details of the deceased and those missing.

Chandrababu Naidu's life full of conspiracies, backstabbing: Jagan



Nagari (Andhra Pradesh) | Agencies

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy came down heavily on Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president and former CM N. Chandrababu Naidu, saying his life is full of backstabbing, conspiracies and lies. On a day when Naidu attended the

release of Rs 100 coin by President Droupadi Murmu in Delhi to commemorate former chief minister N.T. Rama Rao's birth anniversary, Jagan launched a bitter attack on him, saying he shamelessly attended the event though he had backstabbed the TDP founder to usurp power.

Addressing a public meeting at Nagari in Chittoor district, Jagan said "it is preposterous that the very person who backstabbed NTR and usurped power from him is putting garland on his portrait shamelessly for political gains".

Terming Naidu a hypocrite, the Chief Minister alleged that he backstabbed father-in-law NTR to capture power, hijacked the party founded by the late leader and was even responsible for his death.

"Today, he shamelessly participated in the programme to release Rs 100 coin commemorating the birth

anniversary of NTR," he said.

Stating that Naidu's history is full of deceit, betrayal, backstabbing and conspiracies, he said the TDP leader never fulfilled his promises.

Jagan said that Naidu does not believe his own strength and his son and hence he roped in 'foster son' Pawan Kalyan.

"Not even a single scheme comes to our mind when we think of the rule of Naidu who became Chief Minister thrice," he said, adding the TDP chief is depending on lies, conspiracies and backstabbing for coming to power. The Chief Minister said that Chandrababu Naidu, who had promised heaven to people before elections but pushed them towards hell after coming to power, doesn't believe his own party or his son.

Hence, Naidu depends on foster son and friendly media, for spreading lies and discrediting the government and ruling party.

"Naidu's friendly media is carrying him on its shoulders for selfish ends," he said.

Objecting to the Opposition's propaganda that development in the state has taken a back seat, the Chief Minister said that development is tangible in introducing family doctor programme and village clinics for strengthening preventive health care, filling up of speciality doctor vacancies, construction of 17 new medical colleges, 4 new sea ports and 10 fishing harbours besides keeping the state at number 1 position in the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) for three years in a row.

"Chandrababu Naidu, who pursued the policy of plunder, stash and devour by cheating farmers, self-help groups, the unemployed, BCs, STs, SCs and minorities, is once again resorting to conspiracies and lies aiming at coming to power," he said.



TIME BOUND SALARY FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS DOCTORS - CM SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that all department doctors will get time bound pay scale. They would get increments in fifth, tenth and fifteenth years.

Medical college doctors will also get the benefit of the seventh pay scale from January 1, 2016. Addressing a program for inauguration and groundbreaking of 2,000-bed hospital, nursing college and hostel, and OPD registration counters at the Government Medical college here today, Chouhan said that errors in the calculation of NPAs will be corrected. Contractual doctors will also get facilities at par with government contractual employees. All departmental doctors will receive equal pay for equal work. Rationalization of the bond amount for compulsory service of medical students in rural areas will be done. Improvements will be made in the lapsed salary of assistant professors. Rules for shifting of 11 nursing homes in the city will be simplified.

The Chief Minister said doctors must concentrate on giving the best possible treatment to patients. The Government will take care of their services. The purpose of this new building is to provide better treatment facilities to patients.

The Chief Minister commended the role of doctors during the gas tragedy of Bhopal, and the Covid crisis. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang said that Madhya Pradesh has become the fastest



developing state. He gave credit for this to the Chief Minister Shri Chouhan. He said the Chief Minister is consistently working to improve healthcare services. The MBBS course is being taught in Hindi. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has made significant contributions to the healthcare sector. The number of medical colleges is increasing. Health Minister Dr. Prabhuram Choudhary said that 11,000 Health and Wellness Centers are operating. Madhya Pradesh is emerging as a leading state in the healthcare sector.

IMPROVED HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- In the year 2002-03, the health budget was only Rs 578 crore, which has increased almost 20 times to Rs 11 thousand 988 crore in the year 2023-24.
- In 2003 the number of doctors and para-medical staff was around 7500, which has now increased to more than 51 thousand.
- Till 2003, the number of government medical colleges 5, which has increased to 24 in 2023.
- Till 2014, 720 MBBS seats were available in 2014, which have now increased to 2 thousand 205.
- With 19 new medical colleges, MBBS seats will increase by more than 4 thousand.
- The beds in Bhopal and Gwalior Medical Colleges have increased to a total of 2 thousand 500 beds.
- Four new super specialty hospitals started in Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Rewa. One thousand bedded hospital also started in Gwalior.
- School of Excellence in Pulmonary Medicine in Jabalpur and School of Excellence for Eye in Indore have been established.
- Nursing colleges are being established in 14 medical colleges.
- 25 government nursing colleges being operated.
- About 25 thousand students studying in 250 government and private paramedical colleges.
- The number of beds in the hospital increased from 21 thousand 234 to more than 45 thousand. The number of ICU beds increased from 277 to 2085.
- 132 tests are being conducted free of cost in all district hospitals and 100 bedded civil hospitals. Every day 10,000 patients are taking advantage of this facility.
- Free CT scan facility is available in district hospitals and civil hospitals.
- 80 tests are being done free of cost in all primary and community health centres.
- 17 tests are being done free of cost in all sub-health centres.
- 45 types of tests are being done free of cost in primary and community health centres.

Upliftment of Sanskrit is upliftment of nation and Indian culture

CM CHOUHAN TRANSFERS AMOUNT OF 2.30 CRORES FOR SANSKRIT SCHOOLS WITH A SINGLE CLICK

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the upliftment of Sanskrit is the upliftment of the nation and Indian culture. It is unfortunate that the upliftment of Sanskrit which was supposed to happen could not take place in the country due to the rule of outsiders. Sanskrit was disrespected. Our culture, which talks about Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Sarva Kalyan, has been expressed in Sanskrit verses. Now the golden era of cultural upliftment has started in the country and we are able to serve Maa Sanskrit. Chief Minister Chouhan was transferring the financial assistance amount to the Prachya Gurukuls affiliated to Maharishi Patanjali Sanskrit Sansthan from the auditorium of Samatva Bhavan located at CM's residence today. Chief Minister Chouhan transferred assistance amounting to Rs 2 crore 30 lakh to the accounts of students and principals of Sanskrit schools in the state with a single click.

CM Chouhan extends best wishes for Sanskrit Week

While congratulating Sanskrit teachers and students of Sanskrit on Sanskrit Week, Chief Minister Shri



Chouhan said that - "If the soul of India is to be understood, then Sanskrit has to be understood. I am fortunate that I have got the opportunity to develop and promote Sanskrit. The characteristics of literature can be enjoyed only through Sanskrit. CM Shri Chouhan said in Sanskrit that "Samast-Pradeshvasinam Evam Deshvasinam Krite Sanskrit Saptahasya Hardik Shubhkamnaye." (Heartiest greetings to all residents of state and country for Sanskrit Week).

It is noteworthy that from Dwadashi of Shrawan month to Tritiya of Bhadra month (27th August to 2nd September) various activities

are being organised during the Sanskrit Week.

President of Maharishi Patanjali Sansthan Bharat Bairagi said that the newly constructed Sanskrit building started in Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal is unique in the whole country. There is no Sanskrit Bhawan in other states. Sanskrit schools of the state will attain glory. The arrangements of residential schools are also better here. For the promotion of Sanskrit, so much work has not been done anywhere else in the country. Chairman of Yoga Commission Ved Prakash Sharma and Commissioner Public Instruction Anubha Srivastava were present.

Dalit girl strangled to death in Sidhi, accused held

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 17-year-old girl Dalit girl was strangled to death by a man for resisting his advances in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Monday.

The body was found under a mahua tree in the backyard of the victim's house. The accused and his accomplice have been arrested.

According to police, the deceased has been identified as Kajal Rawat, a resident of Jamodi area, around 20 km from Sidhi district headquarters. Before strangling her, the accused had threatened her of dire consequences for resisting his advances. On the night of August 24, Dharmendra



Singh (45) barged into the girl's house and dragged her out. Next morning, her body was found, the police added.

Singh forcefully covered the mouth of the minor's sister-in-law, who was present in the house, to prevent her from screaming for help.

After strangulating the minor, the man dumped her body under a tree in the back-

yard of the house and fled the spot. He also threatened her sister-in-law for dire consequences if she opened her mouth. The victim's family told the police that Singh used to harass the victim regularly. "Singh had threatened the minor in the presence of her sister-in-law at her house and after a few hours, he along with his friend Dheeraj Singh (29) executed the crime on August 25," Sheshmani Mishra, in-charge of Jamodi police station.

Mishra said both the accused were arrested on Sunday and they were sent to jail after being produced before the local court and further investigation was underway.

POLITICS IN POLL-BOUND MP HEATS UP OVER DALIT YOUTH'S MURDER IN SAGAR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under fire from the opposition over the murder of an 18-year-old Dalit youth in Sagar district, senior BJP leader and urban development minister Bhupendra Singh said the "incident should not be politicised". The village where the incident took place is located in the Khurai Assembly constituency of state cabinet minister Bhupendra Singh. Responding to the allegations made by the opposition, Singh said it was an unfortunate incident and all the accused have been arrested.

The minister also said that it wasn't a case of atrocity against Dalit but it happened because of a long conflict between two parties. "It's not a case of atrocity against Dalit. There was a long dispute between two sides (victim and accused families) which caused the unfortunate incident and it should not be politicised," Singh added.

The incident has sparked a political controversy in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh and the Congress has been hitting out at the ruling BJP on atrocities against Dalits.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who



had visited Sagar last week to address a public rally, said that the "BJP has made the state a laboratory" for atrocities on the community. "A Dalit youth was beaten to death in Sagar

district of Madhya Pradesh. The goons did not even spare his mother. The Prime Minister, who projects the facade of building the Sant Ravidas temple in Sagar, does not even flinch at atrocities and injustice handed out to Dalits and tribals in Madhya Pradesh," Kharge said on Sunday.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Sagar on August 12 and had laid the foundation of a temple of Sant Ravidas. He had addressed a mammoth rally also.

At least nine persons belonging to the OBC community and the minority community have so far been arrested under IPC Sections pertaining to murder, sexual harassment and voluntarily causing hurt, a Sagar district police official had said on Saturday.

According to the police, a group of men led by prime accused Vikram Singh (28) stormed into the house of 20-year-old Nitin Ahirwar on Thursday late night and forced him to withdraw a 2019 case of sexual harassment filed by Ahirwar's sister against Vikram and his family members. When Ahirwar refused, the attackers mercilessly assaulted him with sticks and rods. The critically hurt Dalit youth was rushed to a hospital, where the doctors declared him dead.

Shiva Temple Still Locked; Uma Bharti Returns Disappointed From Raisen Fort

▶ FORMER CHIEF MINISTER UMA BHARTI AGAIN RETURNED DISAPPOINTED FROM RAISEN FORT WHERE SHE HAD GONE TO OFFER 'GANGA JAL' AT THE HISTORIC SHIVA TEMPLE ON MONDAY-THE LAST 'SHRAWAN SOMWAR'. LIKE HER PREVIOUS VISIT, THE BJP LEADER FOUND THE TEMPLE STILL CLOSED.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The former CM offered prayers to river Ganga for getting the temple gates opened for the public.

Later, in a recorded video message, the BJP



leader recalling her visit in 2022 to Raisen fort on Ramnavmi, said that during her visit the Archaeological Survey of India and the state government had assured to get the temple opened. There are 30 places of worship across the country where there is no controversy involved but still they remain closed without any reason. The authorities had said that a decision on them would be taken simultaneously and because of their assurance she maintained patience, Bharti said.

The former CM said that her visit to the temple was pre-decided. She had taken a promise from some people that they will remind the Central and state governments about her stand and will ensure the Shiva temple at Raisen fort is opened. Drawing parallel from history, Bharti said that akin to the defeat of King Puranmal with Shershah Suri, she also gets defeated every time and returns from Raisen fort.

Services Of 22 Trains Suspended Till First Week Of September

Team Absolute | Bhatnagar

The trains from Satna to Shahdol and Chhattisgarh, and the Rewa-Bilaspur and the Rewa-Chirmiri passenger trains will not run till the first week of the next month.

The train services will remain suspended. Nevertheless, the trains on the gondia-Barauni Express will run through a different route. According to reports from South-East-Central Railway Bilaspur division, the train services have been suspended because electrification work in the third track of Badhwabara railway station.



This is the reason that services of 22 passenger

trains have been suspended from September 2 to 8.

Women's welfare schemes have emerged from the heart: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that schemes for women welfare are schemes that come straight from the heart. Madhya Pradesh is making a mark in the field of women empowerment. Chief Minister Ladli Bahna Yojana is a miracle. The mission of empowering women will continue.

Chief Minister Chouhan today addressed the sisters

who came from different places of the state to the Chief Minister's residence and tied rakhi to him.

Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana is among the biggest schemes of the world. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the arrangement of Rs 15 thousand crores for Ladli Bahna Yojana gives this scheme the status of the biggest scheme of the world. The number of women in the scheme has gone up to 1.30 crore. Chief Minister

Chouhan expressed gratitude to the sisters who came to his house to tie rakhi two days before the Raksha Bandhan festival, forgoing the necessary preparations for the festival in the family.

On this occasion, sisters from different places presented huge rakhis to Chief Minister Chouhan. An exhibition of rakhis was also organized. Chief Minister Chouhan saw the exhibition and praised the artistic talent of the women.

DALIT WOMAN STRIPPED NAKED, SON BEATEN TO DEATH BY MOB IN SAGAR

Team Absolute | SAGAR

In a deeply disturbing incident, a Dalit youth was reportedly beaten to death, and his mother was subjected to public humiliation by a mob numbering in the hundreds in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district on Sunday. The attack was prompted by a sexual harassment case that had been filed by the victim's sister in 2019. Tragically, the young man's sister was also assaulted when she attempted to shield her family from the aggressors.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Lokesh Kumar said, "A young man was embroiled in an ongoing feud stemming from past conflicts within the jurisdiction of the Khurai police station. He suffered a severe assault from the opposing party. Subsequently, when he was taken to the hospital, he was

pronounced deceased."

Lokesh Kumar added, "Nine individuals have been charged with murder, and three will face charges under the stringent provisions of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Act. Eight individuals have been arrested in connection with the incident."

According to the victim's sister, pressure was being exerted on her to withdraw her case, ultimately leading to the brutal attack on her family. "They subjected him to brutal beatings, and he couldn't survive. They stripped her naked. Later, the police arrived and provided me with a towel. I stood there in a towel until they arranged for a saree," recounted the victim's mother.

She revealed that the mob also ravaged and vandalized their residence. She tearfully lamented, "Not a single household item remains

intact. Even the solid roofs were shattered." Subsequently, the mob ventured to another house in search of her two other sons. The victim's aunt disclosed that a mob forcibly entered her home as well, intimidating her husband and children. She asserted, "They might have even killed my husband and children. They rummaged through our refrigerator."

In 2019, the victim's sister filed a case against four men, alleging threats and physical assault. All four were subsequently arrested, and the case is presently before the courts, as confirmed by the police.

The incident sparked a political controversy in Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the context of upcoming elections. Opposition parties such as the Congress and Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party criticized the ruling BJP government. The ruling

party countered by asserting that swift action had been taken and accused Congress of adopting a selective stance regarding criminal incidents.

State Congress chief Kamal Nath called for financial aid to the victim's family and asserted that the accused had affiliations with the BJP. Responding to the allegations, Madhya Pradesh Minister Bhupendra Singh contended that the crime was a consequence of a pre-existing dispute. He accused the Congress of exploiting the incident for political purposes.

State BJP secretary Rajneesh Agrawal emphasized that his party's government had acted promptly in response to the case. He contrasted this with what he described as a lack of action by Congress-led governments in cases of Dalit atrocities in states under their governance.



EDITOR'S SPECS

OPPN TO BOYCOTT ALL-PARTY MEETING ON BENGAL STATEHOOD DAY

The BJP, Left Front, Congress and All India Secular Front (AISF) have decided to boycott an all-party meeting on Tuesday convened by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on announcing Poila Boishakh (Bengali New Year's Day) as the "Statehood Day". The proposed meeting is also slated to discuss the selection of a song as the "State Song" for West Bengal. While the BJP has announced its decision to boycott the meeting through press briefings, the Left Front chairman in West Bengal Biman Bose had sent a communique to the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Monday expressing the inability of the Left Front allies to participate in the meeting. "West Bengal was forked out by dividing undivided Bengal. That was never a happy moment for the millions of displaced people because of the partition. So we do not believe in celebrating any particular day as the Statehood Day. Similarly, we objected to the Governor C.V. Ananda Bose organising an event as West Bengal Foundation Day on June 20 this year," Bose told mediapersons on Monday. Explaining their rationale behind celebrating Bengali New Year's Day as the Statehood Day, the BJP's state spokesman Samik Bhattacharya said that they were against it since there was no scientific or historical perspective behind the decision of the state government. Meanwhile, state Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury also said that there will be no representation from his party in Tuesday's meeting. Naushad Siddique, the lone AISF representative in the state Assembly, said that he has not been invited to the meeting. "The question of deciding on whether to attend the meeting or not comes only if I had been invited. There is no question of going to the meeting uninvited," he said.

DEMYSTIFYING THE IDEA OF LEADERSHIP

D.C. Pathak

The current literature on 'Leadership' mostly deals with individual paradigms of what is essentially an integral concept and it often does this in a manner that overemphasised at best only a particular facet of leadership presenting it as the exclusive hallmark of the success of the leader. Nothing illustrates this better than the expansive writings on VUCA -- a term said to have been used by the US Army post-Cold War -- to describe the challenge leaders faced in handling a situation that was marked by volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. In the world of business as also in the area of security concerns of the nation, it is now acknowledged that the success of the Information Technology revolution, with 1991 as its cut-off year, created a new world -- called the Age of Information -- where 'change was the only constant'. The advent of VUCA was a reinforcement of the fundamental plank of leadership in the new world whose mandate was that 'knowledge-based decision-making' was a prime determinant -- though not the only one -- of a leader's success. A leader has to be a decisive person and his decisions are based not on 'charisma' or 'inheritance' but on information that bridged the gap between a 'decision' and a 'guess'. The added demand now is that a decision may have to be taken on knowledge that was not as complete as the leader would have liked it to be and this puts primacy on the leader's 'imagination' which is a gifted trait that enabled the leader to see beyond the information available in the present and visualise what would be the 'shape of things to come'. Being well-informed on various relevant spheres in any context is therefore a basic requirement of a successful leader. Corporates recognise the importance of knowledge-based decision-making and employ professional teams to collate and analyse what is called 'business Intelligence' available externally as well as from within the organisation. Correctly interpreting what looked complex and ambiguous in an environment of volatility and uncertainty, is of great help in reaching the right decisions. A successful CEO today uses the totality of information available to him and also derives benefit from his or her own experience of the world -- not only of a particular line of business -- in taking the judgement call. If a good decision is based on knowledge, decentralisation of decision-making -- the

hallmark of a successful corporate entity -- would also be logically rooted in that idea particularly when relevant information available in the organisation, was all supposed to be shared down the line. It is this emphasis on being well-informed that has given newfound importance to 'feedback from below' - 'machine learning' is a gift of modern technology serving the same cause. All business is human activity and the content of leadership is synonymous with the ability of the leader to interact with the 'followers' as well as with the people at large. The persona of a leader must satisfy three fundamental requisites -- authenticity, understanding of human nature and responses and impartiality about awarding credits to others. Authenticity is measured by the self-confidence of the leader, reputation about the fulfilment of promises made and adoption of the organisation's value system in thought and deeds. Leadership is thus a combination of inherent merits and acquired learning. More specifically, a leader can task the people while leading them in pursuit of an initiative but he or she must constructively be in a position to give guidance on any matter brought to the leader's notice. A leader does not have to fish for credits -- whatever the achievement of any teams under him, he gets praised for the same at the hands of the world outside -- his responsibility is to ensure an even-handed distribution of awards internally. A leader has to be sensitive to human situations -- this flows from the leader's understanding of the human psyche and behaviour. On the work front, a boss should be a good leader too and must know his people well -- even to the extent broadly of being aware of the situation of a subordinate at home that might be causing personal stress and anxiety to the latter. A leader should know all about teamwork and the factors that enhance the team's productivity. An understanding of the cultural diversity of the workforce -- that made a difference even in a simple matter like the idea of what 'leisure' is -- becomes crucial. The leader knows that a multicultural team can be the storehouse of energy and productivity. In the final analysis, the success of a leader has to be measured by the ability to attract followers, hold on to them and push them ahead towards a mission. It is the cross-spectrum responsibility and accountability of the leader that needed to be defined and understood by all stakeholders of the organisation, corporate entity and the nation as the case may be -- this often is the least discussed aspect of leadership.

A leader can be evasive about his share of responsibility but only for a while because within the organisation this negative trait would not remain hidden for long and lead to an irreversible loss of reputation for the individual. A senior -- in one particular case -- used the tactic of saying 'please speak' on the file and after the discussion with the junior was over, returning the file to the latter with the comment 'as discussed' -- thus maintaining the scope for complete deniability in the event of something going wrong with the decision. He came to be known as 'Please discuss, As discussed Boss' and never made it to the top in spite of his seniority. It should come easy to a leader to establish inner transparency, follow a methodology of work that was not 'coterie'-based and create an acceptable code of ethics for the organisation. He must ensure a tension-free environment within, encourage the members to follow the tradition of 'seeking and giving help' and enhance productivity by letting people work with greater concentration -- not weighed down by the 'worries' of the office. A leader promotes an aura of 'participative management' by presenting the corporate goal in a manner that emphasised the contribution of one and all within the organisation. Army's management combines the power of command with the message that the success of an operation was the success of the entire vertical hierarchy ranging from the battlefield to the High Command. In the final analysis, the position of a leader is one of 'responsibility' not merely of 'status' and this responsibility includes a 'nurtural' role of mentoring those who were working for him. Leadership ultimately is a measure of what the person in that position ended up doing for others -- not merely for his or her own 'enrichment'. This is a somewhat spiritual-sounding mandate but it is true. When you end your innings in your leadership position, that measure will be reflected in the esteem that your former team members will hold you in. This is comparable to the abstract definition of 'education' as something that was left behind when you finished a book and forgot about it. Will a leader emerge on the horizon if there was no opportunity coming his or her way? Does a leader have to work for his leadership? Is there a challenge of competition in building yourself as a leader? Can a leader stay on when everything else around was prone to shifting? And does a leader stand on a higher pedestal on the scale of human quality than ordinary mortals? As mentioned earlier, leadership combines some inherent

qualities of a person with the experience-related growth achieved by the individual. Sensitivity towards human beings, a healthy curiosity that produces the spirit of inquiry which in turn was conducive to making the potential leader a well-informed person and the gift of a 'macro' vision, are a few of the traits built into the persona of the man who would lead others successfully. A leader observes what he sees, absorbs what he observed and uses what he absorbs for perceiving what lay ahead -- he does not miss the wood for the trees. These three competencies can be built through the application. A potential leader equipped with all of this does not miss an opportunity that is presented to him -- he can in fact even 'create' an opportunity through a vigorous pursuit of the market if he wanted to enter the business world or of polity if he was inclined to take to the path of public life. A leader no doubt has to work to further enhance his hold and efficacy and keep the initiative with him. Digitisation and the resultant globalisation have created a kind of competition that could arise from any part of the world and enable a less resourceful but 'smarter' player to take on the stronger rival. Moreover, a successful leader today has to reckon with sudden unforeseen shifts in the business environment that would test him for the capacity to handle the 'challenge of change'. A well-informed, confident and decisive leader would visualise the need for 'course correction' and ride the change instead of getting bogged down in it. A true leader is adept at handling human interactions since he understands human psychology and carries an adequate degree of 'emotional Intelligence' required for this purpose. A leader therefore is gifted with qualities that made him somewhat special in relation to the average crowd. To sum up, leadership does not come to everybody simply because the individual has to measure up to certain well-conceived paradigms that define it. These attributes can be summarised in the acronym DRINKS -- denoting Decisiveness, Reliability, Initiative, Nerves, Knowledge-based decision making and awareness of the importance of Saving time considering that 'time' had emerged as the new 'resource' beyond funds, manpower and information. (The writer is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau. Views expressed are personal)

international

BANGLADESH PREPS TO START VOLUNTARY ROHINGYA REPATRIATION LATER THIS YEAR

Dhaka | Agencies Bangladesh is preparing to start safe and voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees to their homeland Myanmar later this year, initially with around 1,000 people, a senior government official said here. "As part of confidence-building measures, a Bangladesh delegation is set to visit Myanmar next month while a team from Myanmar will be here soon to talk to the refugees," Xinhua news agency quoted Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen as saying to reporters. "We've prepared a list of over 3,000 Rohingyas from whom we expect to send back 1,000 to Myanmar initially in or around December," he said.



He said the reduction of assistance for Rohingya, whose population is growing with around 30,000 newborns every year, is compounding the crisis in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. Against this backdrop, the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs has recently urged the international community to continue providing necessary humanitarian support till the sustainable repatriation. More than 1 million displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar are currently living

Kutupalong and Nayapara refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, some 300 km southeast of the capital Dhaka, in some of the largest and most densely populated camps in the world. The UN has described the Rohingyas as "the most persecuted minority in the world". More than half of all Rohingyas refugees in Bangladesh (52 per cent) are children, while 51 per cent are comprised of women and girls. The current refugee population accounts for one-third of the total population in the Cox's Bazar. Since 2021, to decongest the 33 camps in Cox's Bazar, nearly 30,000 refugees have been relocated to Bhasan Char island by the government of Bangladesh.

PAK COURT DISMISSES MURDER ABETMENT CHARGES AGAINST IMRAN



Islamabad: A court in Pakistan has dismissed an FIR stating murder abetment charges against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, his lawyer confirmed on Monday. In June, Khan was charged with abetting the murder of Supreme Court lawyer Abdul Razzaq, who was killed in a drive-by shooting in Quetta that month, reports The Express Tribune. Razzaq's son had accused the former premier of being behind his father's murder. In a tweet, Khan's lawyer Naeem Haider Panjutha said: "The court has dismissed the FIR registered against Imran Khan registered in Bijli Road police station in Quetta... Once again Imran

Ukraine's allies won't back military move into Russia: Zelensky

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that the coalition aiding Kiev's fight against Moscow would not support the war-torn nation if it were to move the hostilities into Russian territory. "I believe that this is a big risk, we will definitely be left alone," CNN quoted the President as saying on Sunday in an interview to local media when he was asked if it was time for such a move. Zelensky said Ukraine's fight to reclaim its own territory has been critically aided by its relationships with allies. The progress and responsibility for Ukraine on the battlefield "is always bilateral", he said, adding that international partners were a part of any victory, any hold-up in the counteroffensive, any defensive actions and any weakness. Zelensky also said he believes it is possible to "push for the demilitarization of Russia" in the occupied Crimea by political means, reports CNN. The last several months have witnessed an increase in strikes on Russian territory,



with Russian officials saying Ukrainian drones and shelling are responsible for the attacks. Meanwhile, Ukraine has taken credit for attacks by sea drones and other weaponry on the Russian-held Crimea and surrounding Black Sea targets, promising there will be more to come.

Tropical storm Idalia expected to strengthen as it barrels toward Florida

New York | Agencies

Tropical Storm Idalia, which formed a day before, was expected to strengthen to a Category 2 hurricane by the time it reaches US Florida's Gulf Coast on Tuesday. Winds were predicted to reach a peak of 100 mph (about 160 kph), Jamie Rhome, Deputy Director of the National Hurricane Centre, said in an update on Sunday evening. "Evacuations may be necessary for this storm later today or tomorrow," and "the hazards absolutely will extend beyond the cone," he noted. Idalia, the latest named storm of the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season, also threatens to bring heavy rains to Georgia and the Carolinas. The New York Times on Sunday quoted forecasters as saying: The Florida Division of Emergency Management told residents to keep their gas tanks at least halfway full in case emergency evacuation orders were issued, added the newspaper. Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida signed an executive order on Saturday declaring a state of emergency in 33 counties in preparation for the storm, Xinhua news agency reported. Meanwhile, according to Politico, DeSantis cancelled campaign events this week as the major storm bears down on his state and in the aftermath of horror. "We're locked in on this, we're going to get this



job done," DeSantis said at a Sunday press conference, later adding when asked if he's cancelling campaign events: "I am here, I am here." The Governor is running for the US President and was scheduled to campaign in South Carolina on Monday. Idalia is expected to make landfall along a sparsely populated stretch and DeSantis said power outages will be a particular concern because it's hitting an area of the state with plenty of tall, heavy-limbed trees.

Vivek Ramaswamy wants Elon Musk as advisor if he wins election: Report

Washington | Agencies

Fresh out of the first Republican primary debate, Indian-American candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has suggested that he would want to have Elon Musk on as an advisor if he wins the 2024 presidential election. Ramaswamy said he wants to bring in people with "a blank fresh impression", after a voter at a town hall in Iowa asked the 38-year-old entrepreneur last week where he would seek guidance if elected, The Hill reported, citing NBC News. "I've enjoyed getting to know better, Elon Musk recently, I expect him to be an interesting adviser of mine because he laid off 75 per cent of the employees at Twitter," Ramaswamy said. Ramaswamy has previously complimented Musk's management of X, previously Twitter, saying he would run the government the way that Musk runs the social media company.



"What he did at Twitter is a good example of what I want to do to the administrative state," Ramaswamy had said in an interview on Fox News last week. "Take out the 75 per cent of the dead weight cost, improve the actual experience of what it's supposed to do. He put an X through Twitter, I'll put a big X through the adminis-

trative state," he said, adding: "So, that's where I'm at on common tactics with Elon." Musk, who had previously pledged support for Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' White House bid, called Ramaswamy "increasingly compelling", as the Indian-American faced his first political debate in Wisconsin to select the Republican Party's 2024

presidential nominee. The tech billionaire had also called the youngest presidential aspirant a "very promising candidate", referring to Ramaswamy's interview with talk show host Tucker Carlson. Ramaswamy believes it's time for an "outsider" in the White House in 2024, and is almost tying up with DeSantis at number two in polls, beating fellow Indian-American Nikki Haley and former Vice President Mike Pence. A Yahoo News/YouGov poll released last week showed DeSantis in second place in the Republican race with 12 per cent support -- just four points ahead of Ramaswamy. With a worth of more than \$950 million, Ramaswamy raised more than \$450,000, with an average donation of \$38, in the first hour after the Republican debate. In addition, he was the most Google-searched Republican candidate, followed by Haley, according to Fox News.



SHIV SENA (UBT) RIDICULES AJIT PAWAR'S CLAIMS OF 'NOT LUSTING FOR POWER'

▶ IN THE MOST FIERY ATTACK IN TWO MONTHS, THE SHIV SENA (UBT) MP SANJAY RAUT RIDICULED DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AJIT PAWAR'S PURPORTED CLAIMS THAT "HE HAD NO LUST FOR POWER" BUT HAD JOINED THE SAFFRON GOVERNMENT ONLY FOR THE PROGRESS OF MAHARASHTRA AND PROPAGATE THE IDEALS OF CHHATRAPATI SHAHU MAHARAJ, MAHATMA JYOTIRAO PHULE AND DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR, HERE ON MONDAY.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Sena (UBT) dismissed Ajit Pawar's contentions as "hollow and baseless" and questioned his development records previously when he was the Deputy CM for four times. "In fact, the Bharatiya Janata Party has a one-point program to foment communal riots across India, including Maharashtra... How lessons of hatred are taught in schools came to the fore with the Uttar Pradesh school episode where a teacher incited the students to beat up a Muslim classmate. Making people fight in the name of caste-religion and spreading communal poison were never the ideals of Shahu-Phule-Ambedkar," said Raut. Raut also called upon Ajit Pawar to clarify how he planned to carry forward the ideals of Dr. Ambedkar when

the present government is being run in a 'dictatorial manner' by trampling the Constitution at all levels. Simultaneously, in an edit in the Saamana Group of publications, Raut also referred to the manner in which former governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari poked fun at Ajit Pawar, observing: "No matter how many times you ask, Ajit Pawar is ever-ready to become a Deputy CM. I pity him". "First, Koshiyari should not be deriding a Maharashtra leader like this as he played politics while occupying the post of the state governor... But, his 'masti' has not yet gone. Why doesn't he feel sorry for the 'inspector-turned-constable' (BJP DyCM) Devendra Fadnavis... Now, Ajit Pawar should give Koshiyari a befitting reply," Raut urged. Training guns on Ajit Pawar -- who walked out with a breakaway

group of the Nationalist Congress Party on July 1 -- the Sena (UBT) said it was only because of the NCP founder-President Sharad Pawar that the nephew progressed so much in politics. "By Sharad Pawar's grace, Ajit Pawar became Deputy CM four times and also enjoyed all powerful posts... But at that time he never felt the need to organise big receptions for himself in his hometown, Baramati (Pune). After joining the BJP, he is obsessed with getting such hospitality....," Raut said in a jibe at the Deputy CM. Raut said that if Ajit Pawar was really not hungry for power and office, then why did he break his own uncle (Sharad Pawar)'s party and sack him as the President. "Instead of committing a dacoity on Sharad Pawar's hard work, Ajit Pawar should have quit from politics to prove his claims, immersed himself in social work to take forward the ideals of Shahu-Phule-Ambedkar, or could have launched his own global party," declared Raut. The Sena (UBT) said, "Ajit Pawar is a liar" and, akin to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, he did not leave the party for any noble ideals, but to avoid probes by central investigating agencies like ED, I-T, CBI, etc. due to BJP pressures, "and the people of Baramati who showered flowers on him are well aware of this".

4 VBA Dalit activists stripped, assaulted in Maha on suspicion of goat, pigeons theft; 6 booked

Ahmednagar | Agencies

Four Dalit activists of the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) were allegedly stripped, urinated upon, hung from a tree and brutally assaulted on rumours of stealing goats and pigeons in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar, police said on Sunday. According to police and VBA local workers, the activists were hung upside down from a tree and then repeatedly assaulted with sticks by six persons for allegedly stealing a goat and pigeons of a local farmer. The incident was reported from Haregaon in Shrirampur in the district. Taking serious note of the incident, VBA President Prakash Ambedkar called upon his party workers and spoke to one of the victims and his family. "The victims in the caste atrocity case are shaken and pleading for justice. I spoke to one of them and his grandmother, and the VBA and I will do everything to ensure justice," he said.



अ. प्रकाश अंबेडकर

पीकित तरुण

VBA Vice President Siddharth Moke said that Ambedkar will visit the families of the four youngsters - all in their 20s - next week and has assured them all help in the matter. Police said that the incident occurred on Thursday and one of the accused even shot a video of the incident which later went viral on social media. In a statement, the VBA said that the assailants allegedly urinated and spat on the victims, stripped them, forced them to lick the spittle, hung them upside down from a tree and then severely beat them up.

So far, the police have detained one person while five others are still at large and the police have formed teams to track them. They have been identified as: Deepak Gaikwad, Raju Borge, Yuvraj Galande, Durgesh Vaidya and Manoj Borake. The injured youth were taken to a local hospital and later one of them, Shubham Mogade filed the police complaint on Saturday. The police have registered a FIR invoking sections pertaining to abduction, attempt to murder and atrocities on SC/STs against the accused, and further probe is underway.

Navi Mumbai rocked by sex crimes against minor girl, boy; 3 booked

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai:

Navi Mumbai was shaken by sexual crimes against a minor girl and boy, leading to three persons, including a woman, being booked by the police, officials said here on Monday. In the first incident, a man who befriended the 14-year-old girl from Turbhe on social media in January 2021, got in touch with her and repeatedly raped her at his home in Kamothe. In May, the girl became pregnant and with help from her family members, finally lodged a police complaint against the accused and his mother, who was aware of her son's activities. Following the minor girl's complaint, the police have booked the man and his mother for abetting the crime and further investigations are on, said an official. In the second incident, a 26-year-old autorickshaw driver was arrested after he allegedly sexually assaulted a 15-year-old boy in the toilet of a mall in Vashi on Sunday evening. Police said that the boy



had gone to the mall with his friends where the autorickshaw driver lured him to the ground floor toilet block and sexually assaulted him. The boy somehow managed to escape from there and informed his family, who lodged a complaint with the Vashi Police Station. Police teams swung into action to track and arrest the accused a few hours later. In both the serious offences involving the two minors, the Navi Mumbai Police have invoked stringent provisions of the POCSO Act, and other laws, and further investigations are underway.

NRI couple was in Mumbai hotel over rescheduled flight, killed in fire

Team Absolute | Mumbai

NRIs Kishan Halai and his 25-year-old fiancée Rupal Vekaria, who were among the three persons who died in the fire in a Mumbai-based hotel on Sunday, were supposed to get married in Nairobi after flying out of the Maharashtra capital but the destiny wished otherwise. Kishan, Rupal, her mother and sister were accommodated in the ground-plus-four-storey Galaxy Hotel in suburban Santacruz by the airlines concerned after their flight was rescheduled, said Suresh Kara, sarpanch of Rampar village in Mandvi taluka of Gujarat's Kutch district. The families of Kishan Halai and the Vekarias are from Rampar village. The blaze broke out on the third floor of the hotel on Sunday afternoon, killing Kishan Halai (28), Rupal Vekaria (25), and another person Kantilal Vara (50). Rupal's mother Manjulaben (49), sister Alpa (19), and one Aslam Sheikh (48) were



injured in the incident, officials said. "Kishan Halai and his fiancée Rupal Vekaria were settled in Nairobi for several years," said Kara. The victim Kantilal Vara was not related to Vekarias and Kishan. According to Kara, the families of Kishan and Rupal remained connected to their roots despite settling abroad many years ago. Their ancestral houses are still there in Rampar village. "Kishan and Rupal were engaged and were planning

to get married soon after reaching Nairobi, where they were residing for many years with their parents and siblings. Kishan, Rupal and their families came to India nearly a month back to attend the wedding of Kishan's younger brother in the village. The newly-married couple along with Kishan's parents had left for Kenya a week back," said Kara. He said Kishan's grandparents still live in Rampar village. While Kishan was born and brought up in the village till he became a teenager, Rupal was born in Nairobi. Kishan moved to Nairobi with his parents when he was around 13, Kara added. After finishing shopping and meeting relatives in Gujarat, Kishan, Rupal, her parents, and sister planned to leave India on Saturday, said the sarpanch. "They all reached Mumbai from Ahmedabad on Saturday to board a flight for Nairobi. As the flight was rescheduled, the airline accommodated them in a nearby hotel in Santacruz where the fire erupted on Sunday," said Kara.

MAN KILLS WIFE OVER SUSPECTED AFFAIR; HELD

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Police have arrested a 38-year-old man for allegedly killing his wife by slitting her throat. The police, on Monday, said that he suspected that his wife was having an affair and thus killed her, PTI reported. The arrested accused, identified as Lalit Ramdas Dahat (38), allegedly killed his wife Pranali at their residence in the Ambedkar Nagar area in Wadi police station. According to the police, the incident happened on Sunday morning. The police said that the deceased had come back home after visiting her patents around 8.30 am when an argument ensued between the couple. As the argument escalated, an infuriated Lalit attacked his wife. He used a sharp object and slit her throat killing her on the spot.



The accused then left the house and subsequently got in touch with a relative and a friend in the police force and informed them about the murder, the police were quoted as saying in the PTI report. The accused, who was employed as a security guard, had married the vic-

Sonia Gandhi to attend opposition meet in Mumbai

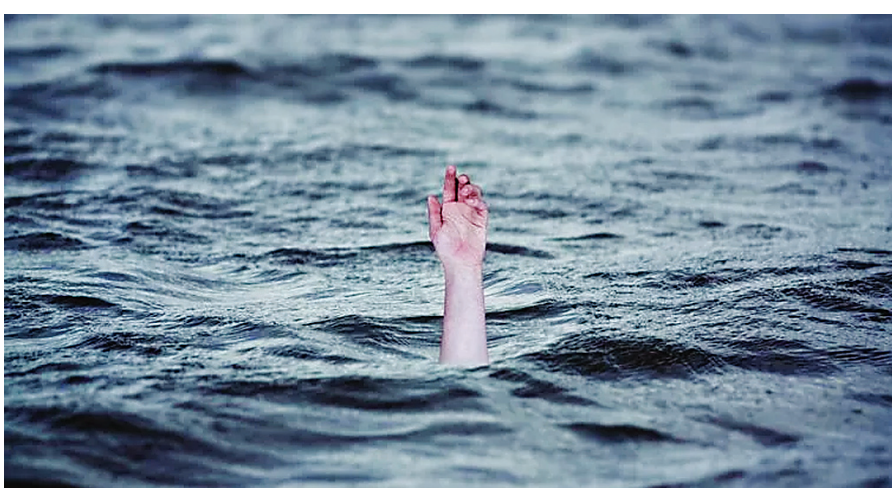
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi will attend this week's meeting of INDIA bloc in Mumbai and the gathering will be see the unveiling of the opposition grouping's logo, the party's Maharashtra unit president Nana Patole said on Monday. Key leaders of the anti-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) bloc, which has more than two dozens parties, will gather in a luxury hotel in suburban Mumbai on August 31 and September 1 in what will be their third huddle since coming together on a common platform for the first time in June in Patna. Speaking to reporters here, Nanan Patole said, "Sonia Gandhi will attend the INDIA alliance meet in Mumbai." He said the alliance's official logo will be unveiled during the gathering, where opposition leaders will also discuss their agenda ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The first meeting of the bloc was held in



June in Patna, while the second gathering in Bengaluru in July finalised its name -- Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). The grouping has been formed with an aim of taking on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2024 parliamentary polls.

Man rescued from creek in Bhayander



Team Absolute | Mumbai A 32-year-old man was rescued from a creek in Bhayander. The man identified as Akash Gupta was walking on

a railway bridge. According to the police, he slipped and fell into the creek on Sunday evening. Gupta was rescued by the local police and fishermen. The station master from Bhayander railway station alerted the police. "The man was rescued by police personnel and fishermen. He was rushed to a hospital and discharged after treatment," the police official said.

Four nabbed from Pune for stripping, beating Dalit youth in Ahmednagar

Ahmednagar | Agencies

The district police have nabbed four of the six accused who allegedly stripped, spat and assaulted four Dalit youth in Ahmednagar, all workers of the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA), activists said here on Monday. The accused had fled to Pune district after the shocking incident came to light on Sunday, sparking a furore, said Ahmednagar VBA President Vishal Kolge. They arrested accused have been identified as Yuvraj Galande, Manoj Borake, Deepak Gaikwad and Durgesh Vaidya, while the kingpin Nanasaheb Galande, a local money-lender and land-grabber, is still at large, according to Kolge. VBA President Prakash Ambedkar will arrive in Ahmednagar's Haregaon village - where the incident occurred - and take out a protest rally on September 1. The four Dalit VBA workers, including two students and one minor, were allegedly stripped,



urinated upon, hung from a tree and brutally assaulted on rumours of stealing goats and pigeons at Haregaon village in Shrirampur last Friday. They were hung upside down from a tree and then repeatedly assaulted with sticks by the six accused persons for the alleged stealing incident that happened at least

three months ago, claimed Kolge. Taking serious note of the incident, Ambedkar called upon his party workers and spoke to one of the victims and his family. "The victims in the caste atrocity case are shaken and pleading for justice. I spoke to one of them and his grandmother. The VBA will do every-





GIGI HADID IS STILL ENJOYING 'SINGLE LIFE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Gigi Hadid is "more than happy living the single life."

Gigi has been romantically linked to Leonardo DiCaprio over the recent months, and although they "respect each other and have fun when they're together," Gigi is happily single, reports aceshowbiz.com.

A source told Us Weekly: "Leo and Gigi still talk on occasion, and they see each other fairly often because they travel in similar circles of friends."

Despite this, Gigi is not looking to settle down with anyone for the time being.

The supermodel, who has Khai, two, with Zayn Malik, is still enjoying the single life.

The insider shared: "They respect each other and have fun when they're together, but it's not the type of situation Gigi would settle down for."

She's more than happy living the single life and focusing on her daughter and her career."

Meanwhile, Gigi previously

shared that she's loved being a young mom.

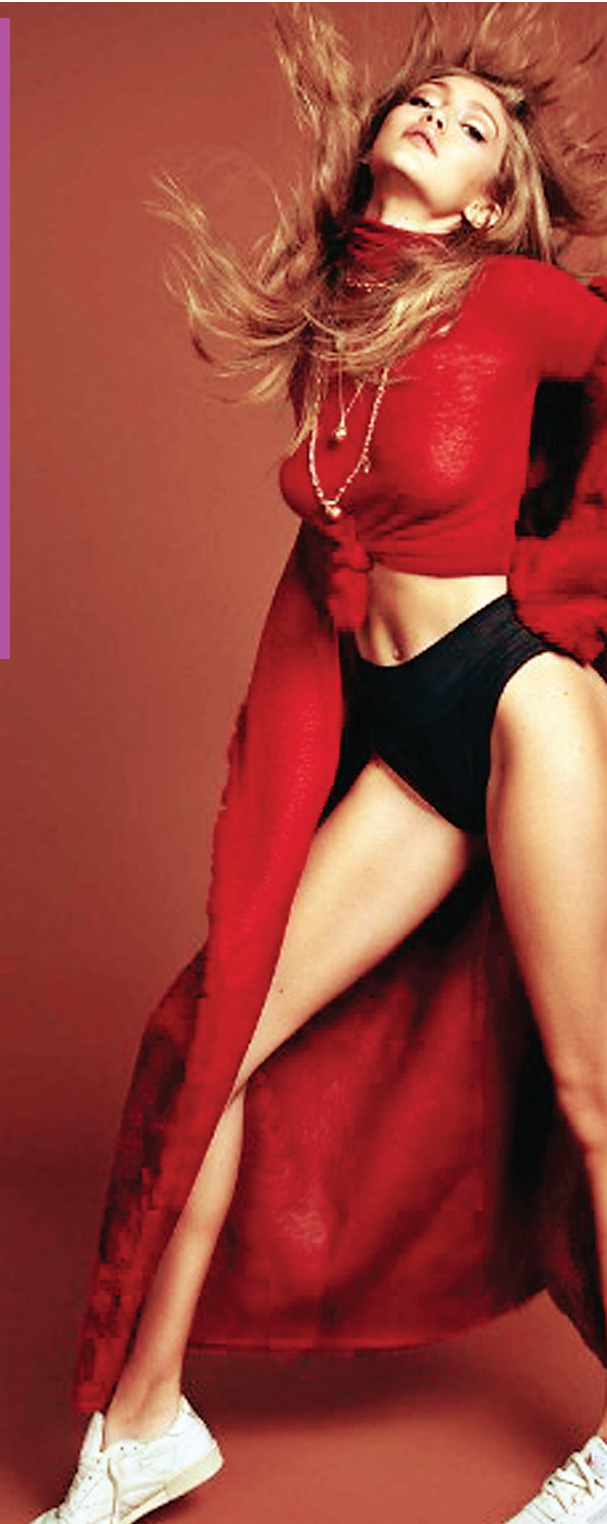
The model has relished her experience of motherhood. She told the Sunday Times newspaper: "She has already given me so much. I always wanted to be a mom, but I was never obsessive about it or (thought that) I was put on this Earth to be a mom."

Gigi also thinks she had a baby at the perfect time in her life.

She said, "I've always been quite organized, so having Khai at the time that I did was a blessing. I'm so glad to be a young mom. Gigi and Zayn have prioritised their baby girl since their split."

What's more, the model revealed that Khai has developed some of Zayn's British traits. She shared: "She's clearly a child who was grown in my stomach eating a lot of British food - breakfast, beans, curries. And she still eats like that."

She even says some words with a little (English) accent, which I love."



Miley Cyrus says touring 'isn't healthy' for

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Miley Cyrus has enjoyed an extremely successful career since bursting onto the scene, but she admits that the touring side of her job "isn't healthy" for her.

The 'Wrecking Ball' singer, who comes from a famous family including pop star dad Billy Ray Cyrus, burst onto the scene in 2005 as the lead star in Disney's Hannah Montana before making a name for herself in the music industry, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

She admitted that the touring side of her job leaves a lot to be desired. In a recent chat shared on her TikTok, Miley (30) confessed that her role as a cheerleader in her younger years helped set her up for the touring life, and also said how it affected her.

She was quoted by 'Mirror.co.uk' as saying, "Having every day the relationship between you and other humans being subject and observed isn't healthy for me because it erases my humanity and my connection. And without my humanity and my connection, I can't be a songwriter, which is my priority." She also revealed the physical elements of touring, joking that her

appearance dramatically changes the further into a tour she gets. The words came after she recently opened up about her feud with the late Sinead O'Connor.

When Miley released the controversial single

'Wrecking Ball' a decade ago, she paid tribute to the 'Nothing Compares 2 U' music video in the opening sequence of her own shot. In response to the sweet tribute, Sinead, who died last month at the age of 56, warned Miley about being sexualised in the music industry.

Writing an open letter to the starlet following the scenes, Sinead had said: "The message you keep sending is that it's somehow cool to be prostituted. It's so not cool Miley. It's dangerous. I would be encouraging you to send healthier messages to your peers, that they and you are worth more than what is currently going on in your career."



Denis Villeneuve says it would be a 'dream' to make 3rd 'Dune' movie

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Denis Villeneuve has hoped that the journey of 'Dune' doesn't end with the second part.

However, the director feels that the third part of the Oscar winning franchise is a pipe dream for now as per The Hollywood Reporter.

The filmmaker opened up in an interview with Empire Magazine about wanting to continue to explore the desert planet created by Frank Herbert in a third movie based on Dune Messiah if it were to

get greenlit. "If I succeed in making a trilogy, that would be the dream," he told the publication about bringing to life Herbert's follow-up to Dune. "Dune Messiah was written in reaction to the fact that people perceived Paul Atreides as a hero, which is not what (Herbert) wanted to do. My adaptation (of Dune) is closer to his idea that it's actually a warning." The Hollywood Reporter further states that Villeneuve explained he would say goodbye to the desert of Arrakis after 'Dune 3' and move on to other projects.

PAMELA ANDERSON'S STALKER HID UNDER HER BED, SLEPT IN HER 'BAYWATCH' BIKINI

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Pamela Anderson had once found a stalker in her bed wearing her iconic red bikini and hid under her bed.

Anderson found fame in the 1990s when she played C.J. Parker on the hit series 'Baywatch' and was shocked years later in 2001 to find that a French woman known as Christine Roth, then 27, had broken into her house and climbed into her bed wearing her costume from the show, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The stalker handed her a note which read: "I'm not a lesbian, but I dream of you," on seeing the actress for the first time. Anderson told The Sun: "My mum was in hospital and my dad was coming into town so I was preparing a room for him when someone came upstairs and said, 'Pamela, there is someone sleeping in your bed.' I was thinking, 'Very Goldilocks', like maybe it was my brother's wife or maybe someone sneaked in the back door."

"We went into the room and there was a woman wearing my red bathing suit and speaking French, blonde hair - and then she gave me a letter saying she wanted to touch me and she was there for that, and she had a lot of my clothes under the bed."

She added that the woman had cut herself with broken glass and that a lot of items that had gone missing from her house ended up being found under the bed where the woman had been hiding.

She said: "She had been there for a while and then she cut her wrists with glass and it was this panicky moment. I grabbed the kids and went outside. There were lots of little things that had gone missing, like bread and my jean jacket, and I kept thinking I was losing my mind. It was all under the bed and it was a room that had an outside entrance so she came in off the beach."



'Hannah Montana' alum Mitchel Musso arrested for public intoxication, theft



Los Angeles | Agencies

Mitchel Musso, best known for playing Oliver Oken in the series Hannah Montana, was arrested in Texas.

The actor spent some time in jail at Rockwall, Texas after he was charged with "public intoxication, theft (under \$100), expired registration, failure to display a driver's license and violating a promise to appear notice," according to TMZ, reports deadline.com.

Musso was reportedly released on a \$1,000 bond after being arrested following an incident at a food market that had the former Disney star

allegedly stealing potato chips. According to the outlet, staffers had asked Musso to pay for the snack and he "became verbally abusive" and ended up "walking off." Local authorities were called and caught up with Musso outside of his hotel who was reportedly under the influence. Musso starred in Hannah Montana for four seasons playing Miley Cyrus' best friend Oliver. The actor reprised his role in 2009's Hannah Montana: The Movie. Musso would also voice Jeremy Johnson in the animated series Phineas and Ferb.

In 2010, Musso would go on to star in the DisneyXD series Pair of Kings for the first two seasons.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jordana Brewster



NEERAJ CHOPRA MAKES HISTORY WITH FIRST GOLD FOR INDIA IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Budapest | Agencies

India's Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won a historic maiden gold medal for India in the World Athletics Championships on Sunday, claiming the gold medal in the men's javelin throw competition here.

Chopra, who has been bothered by an injury in the last few months, killed the competition in the Hungarian capital with a massive throw of 88.17 in his second turn.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem took the silver medal, the first World Championship medal for his country, with a distance of 87.82 while Czech Republic's Yakub Vadlejch retained the bronze he won in Oregon last year, with a distance of 86.67.

The two other Indians in the fray too did their best but could not finish on the podium -- Kishore Kumar Jena, who had to overcome visa problems to reach Budapest, finished fifth with a personal best throw of 84.77 while D.P. Manu finished sixth with 84.14. But India had the most hopes from Neeraj Chopra and the 25-year-old from Haryana did not disappoint as he came up with a superb throw on his second turn and secured his first World



Championship gold.

Before Sunday, no Indian male or female had won a gold medal in the World Championship with Anju Bobby George claiming bronze in women's long jump at Paris in 2003 while Neeraj Chopra won a silver in Oregon, US, last year. Chopra, who usually aims to start with a big first throw and had done just that in the qualifying stage with a stunning 88.77 metre, opened with a foul on

his first attempt on Sunday.

But his next throw straight away catapulted him to the top of the standings as the 25-year-old Tokyo Olympic gold medallist from Haryana hurled the spear to 88.17 to take the lead. Germany's Julian Weber was placed second with 85.79 on his second attempt while Yakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic was placed third with 84.18m throw in his second attempt. Chopra could man-

age only 86.32 metre in his third attempt while Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem jumped into the fray with a superb throw of 87.82 metre on his third turn. Nadeem, who had surgery on his shoulder earlier this year following an injury, started with a gentle loosener of 74.90m and followed that up with 82.81m before unleashing a rip-roaring 87.82 in his third turn, a season-best for the Pakistan thrower. India's D.P. Manu also came up with his best effort of the first half of the competition with 83.72m in his third attempt and was placed fifth while Kishore Kumar Jena came up with 82.82m in his second attempt to remain in seventh position. Chopra could manage only an 84.62m throw in his fourth attempt while Nadeem came up with 87.15m while Julian Weber of Germany remained in the third position thanks to his 85.7 attempt.

Arshad Nadeem made a final attempt in the sixth round with a big one but it was still short of what he wanted and Chopra sealed the gold medal. It has been an indifferent year so far for Neeraj Chopra in 2023 as he has participated in only two competitions with the 88.67m at Doha Diamond League, his best for the season.

World Athletics Championship: Parul sets national record in 3000m steeplechase; men's 4x400 relay team finishes fifth

Budapest | Agencies

India's Parul Chaudhary and the men's 4x400m relay team set new benchmarks at the World Athletics Championships here on Sunday, coming up with their best performances.

Long-distance runner Parul Chaudhary produced a brilliant effort to set a new national record in the women's 3000m steeplechase.

Parul clocked 9 minutes 15.51 seconds on Sunday to finish 11th overall. She improved on the national record of 9:19.76 held by Lalita Babar of Maharashtra, who set it in the Rio Olympics in 2016.

With her timing of 9:16.51, Parul also qualified for the Paris Olympic Games next year. The Indian men's 4x400m relay team of Muhammad Anas Yahiya, Amej Jacob, Muhammad Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh came with a lion-hearted effort as it dipped under three minutes once again, finishing fifth overall in 2 minutes 59.92 seconds.

The quartet which had gone neck-and-neck with the mighty United States in the semifinal heat and finishing second in 2:29.05, could not manage to improve on that effort in the final.

But that would not have mattered as the United States team of Quincy Hall, Vernon Norwood, Justin Robinson and Rai Benjamin clocked a world-leading 2:57.31 to win the gold medal. Norwood and Rai Benjamin (anchor) came up with brilliant efforts of 4.01 and 44.02 respectively that really sealed the gold medal for them.

France bagged the silver medal in 2:58.45 -- a national record -- while Great Britain claimed bronze with a timing of 2:58.71 --



their season best. Jamaica were fourth in 2:59.34. The Indian had the second-best time in the heats, setting an Asian Record.

Muhammad Anas had a decent start and handed the baton to Amej Jacob in fifth position. Ajmal took the baton in 7th place and surged back to fifth. In the anchor leg, Ramesh could only maintain the fifth position despite a valiant effort.

In a fast women's 3000m steeplechase race, Bahrain's Winfred Yavi finally landed the big one, taking gold in 8:54.29 -- the fifth-fastest performance of all time.

Winfred, after finishing just outside of the medals in 2019 and again in 2022, ran away from world record-holder Beatrice Chepkoech, who held on for silver in 8:58.98. Faith Cherotich made it a second medal for Kenya, taking bronze in 9:00.69.

For the first time ever at a World Championships, six women finished inside

Badminton World Championship: An Se Young, Vitidsarn bag singles crowns; Chen/Jia win record 4th women's doubles title

Copenhagen | Agencies

An Se Young of Korea Republic and Kunlun Vitidsarn of Thailand won the women's and men's singles titles while Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan of China won the women's doubles title for a record fourth time in the World Badminton Championship here on Sunday.

An Se Young defeated sixth seed Carolina Marin of Spain 21-12, 21-10 in 42 minutes in the women's singles final.

Vitidsarn, the third seed from Thailand, quelled a strong fight from Japan's Kodai Naraoka, coming back after losing the first game to win 19-21, 21-18, 21-7 in the men's final that went on to one hour and 49 minutes.

In the women's doubles, defending champions Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan took a straight-game victory over Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti of Indonesia on Sunday, becoming the first women's pair to win four gold medals in the tournament's history.

The top seeds, playing their fourth final in six appearances at the worlds, took 41 minutes to wrap up the victory 21-16, 21-12,



expanding their head-to-head record against the Indonesian duo to 5-1, reports Xinhua. In the mixed doubles final held earlier, China's three-time champions Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong were defeated by South Korea's Seo Seung-jae and Chae Yu-jung to finish with silver medals.

The 25-year-old Seo has the chance to win another title in the tournament as he will pair with Kang Min-hyuk in the men's doubles final later. Meanwhile, top seeds Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong of China missed their chance to win a record fourth World

Championships mixed doubles title, losing to South Korea's Seo Seung-jae and Chae Yu-Jung for the first time in 10 encounters.

Fifth-seeded Seo and Chae needed 59 minutes to claim the victory 21-17, 10-21, 21-18, while 25-year-old Seo has the chance to win another title, as he will pair with Kang Min-hyuk in the men's doubles final later.

The defending champions of China bounced back in the second game to pull the match into the decider. They saved three match points from 20-15 in the third game, only to see Seo's powerful smashing end their chances.

Athletics World Championship: Uganda's Kiplangat wins marathon gold

Budapest | Agencies

As he approached the finishing curve in the sunbathed Heroes' Square, Victor Kiplangat could afford to snatch his national flag and savour his golden moment at the end of the men's marathon on the final day at the World Athletics Championships here on Sunday.

This was the second time in Budapest that Uganda had a world-beater to acclaim.

While Joshua Cheptegei claimed the men's 10,000m crown on the track on day two, Victor Kiplangat made it a double for the country. Jacob Kiplimo's victory at the World Cross Country Championships in Bathurst in February meant Uganda had a hat-trick of global successes in 2023.

Kiplangat hit the top on the international scene at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last year. Twelve months on, inspired by Kiplimo, the 23-year-old proved a class apart from the rest of the world, breaking clear from Ethiopia's Leul Gebresilase with 3km to go and crossing the line in 2:08:53.

The winning margin was 26 seconds as Israel's Maru Teferi claimed the silver, overtaking the tiring Leul Gebresilase on the finishing curve to finish runner-up in 2:09:12.

Gebresilase had to settle for bronze in 2:09:19, a disappointment for Ethiopia, who finished first and second in Doha in 2019 and in Oregon last year. His teammate Tamarit Tola, the decisive winner on the Oregon trail, was in the hunt until fading at 33km and eventually dropping out.

After Gebresilase came Lesotho's Tebello Ramakongoana, fourth in a PB 2:09:57, and then Kiplangat's Ugandan teammate Stephen Kissa, who recovered from a fall of his own to finish fifth in



2:10:22.

"This has been my dream and it has come true at last," said Kiplangat, the second Ugandan to take the title, following Stephen Kiprotich's success in Moscow in 2013.

"Last year I was Commonwealth Games champion and that made me think this year I must become world champion. Now my prayers have been answered and hopefully next year in Paris I will become Olympic champion too," he said.

Without picking himself up so smartly, and moving directly into overdrive, the terrific Teferi would not have claimed a silver medal lining.

"I am glad I managed to fulfil my dream," he said. "I fell down and tore my vest but I tried to move on to finish the race in the best possible condition."

At the start of the race, Ser-Od Bat-Ochir set out like a bat out of hell. The 41-year-old Mongolian powered through the opening 1km in 2:57 and hit 3km in 8:55, 2:05 pace, building up a lead of 27 seconds.

The most experienced campaigner in the 83-man field, Bat-Ochir was competing in his 11th straight World Championships marathon, his debut having come in Paris when he was a sprightly 21-year-old back in 2003.

Bat-Ochir kept his foot on the gas for a little while yet, passing 5km in 14:59, 35 seconds clear of Tola. Thereafter, however, the pace started to take its toll. By 8km, his lead was down to 15 seconds and just past 9km he was swallowed by the pack of major players, with Kenya's Timothy Kiplagat in the vanguard. Second in Rotterdam in April, the Kenyan led through 10km with a three-second advantage but chose not to push on.

Bat-Ochir started to pay the price for his bold effort. After passing 10km, he ground to a halt, clutching his right hamstring, stretching it out and starting again. Not that he was going to do a Sifan Hassan. After another couple of stops and re-starts, he hobbled off the course for good at 12km.

Meanwhile, back at the sharp end, Kenya's Joshua Belet led through 15km in 46:09, upping the pace to match Bat-Ochir's opening kilometre split of 2:57.

There were 30 men still in the lead pack at halfway, with Rwanda's John Hakizimana at the front in 1:05:02. A surge from Kiplangat at a drinks station, however, succeeded in splintering the group.

Indian team eyes strong start in Men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier

Oman | Agencies

The Indian Men's Hockey Team will begin their campaign at the Men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier against Bangladesh in Salalah, Oman on Monday.

The tournament is scheduled to take place from August 29 to September 2. India are placed in the Elite Pool along with Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, Oman, and Bangladesh, while the Challengers Pool consists of Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Iran.

After their opening contest against Bangladesh, India will compete against Oman and Pakistan on Wednesday, and then square off against Malaysia and Japan on Thursday.

Indian Men's Hockey Team will enter the Men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier tournament with the hopes of earning a top-three finish to book a spot in the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup. It must be noted that a total of 16 nations will be competing at the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup. Oman, being the host nation, has already earned a berth for the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup.

Apart from the nations that finish in the top three positions in the tournament, the top 3 nations from Continental competitions in Africa, America, Europe and Oceania will form the remaining teams who will compete at the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup.

The last time, the Indian Men's Hockey Team played against Bangladesh was during the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Dhaka 2021, where India defeated their opponents 9-0. Meanwhile, India's last meeting against Oman was at the Men's Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2018 which India won 11-0. India's last meeting with Pakistan took place in the recently concluded Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023. India picked up a solid 4-0 win over their neighbouring rivals. India's last meeting against Malaysia was in the Final of the same competition where the side led by Harmanpreet Singh had beaten Malaysia 4-3 after a thrilling contest. Lastly, India's



previous meeting against Japan, too, took place at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023 and ended in India's favour with a 5-0 win.

Speaking ahead of the competition, India captain Mandeep Mor stressed on the importance of the competition. "For every player, the biggest dream is always to represent the nation at the World Cup. This is an important tournament for us and we want to secure a direct qualification for the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup and have the opportunity to perform on the biggest stage.

We have prepared ourselves well for the upcoming competition and we are confident that we will be able to get positive results in the tournament and earn a top-three finish."

INDIAN BEAT MALAYSIA, QUALIFIES FOR FIH WOMEN HOCKEY 5S WORLD CUP OMAN 2024

Oman: The Indian team entered the final of the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier after defeating Malaysia 9-5 in Salalah, here on Monday.

For India, Navjot Kaur (7', 10', 17'), Monika Dipi Toppo (22'), Mahima Choudhary (14'), Mariana Kujur (9', 12') and Jyoti (21', 26') were on target. For Malaysia, Zati Muhamad (4', 5'), Dian Nazeri (10', 20') and Aziz Zafirah (16') were on target.

India started the match aggressively right from the start. However, it was Malaysia that broke the deadlock and took the lead through Zati Muhamad (4') after she successfully converted the Challenge Goal. A minute later, Malaysia doubled their lead as Zati Muhamad (5') was on the scoresheet again, scoring a fine field goal. India pulled one back through Captain Navjot Kaur's strike (7').

In-form Mariana Kujur (9') then flawlessly converted the Challenge Goal to level the scores. With both teams constantly creating threatening attacks, Malaysia took the lead through Dian Nazeri (10'). India immediately counter-attacked and scored two goals in quick time to take the lead.

Captain Navjot Kaur (10') and Mariana Kujur (12') scored the third and fourth goals for India. With a minute remaining in the first half, India extended their lead through Mahima Choudhary (14'). At the end of the first half, India were leading Malaysia by 5-3.

Both teams came out firing in the second half, making some threatening moves in front of each other's goal. But it was Malaysia who got on the scoresheet through Aziz Zafirah (16') after she converted the Challenge Goal. India added three more goals to their tally through Navjot Kaur (17'), Jyoti (21') and Monika Dipi Toppo (22') to make it 8-5 to India. With four minutes remaining, Jyoti (26') scored the ninth goal for India.

Jay Shah highlights significance of performance, statistics for players' selection

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Jay Shah on Sunday highlighted the significance of focusing on performance and statistics for players' selection.

Addressing a gathering of players and enthusiasts during an event organised by the Volleyball Association in Ahmedabad, Shah also emphasised the importance of treating final matches with the same mindset as regular games.

Referring to the journey of the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) in constructing the world's largest cricket stadium, he recounted how the GCA initially faced challenges due to inadequate funds, but now enjoys a surplus, showcasing the organisation's resilience and determination.

"I have advice for gold medalists - after achieving one gold, focus on securing the next gold in the next tournament. We are committed to ensuring that the Volleyball team qualifies for the upcoming Olympics, particularly as we strive to host the Olympics in India in 2036," Shah asserted.

Sharing insights about his decision to increase the



match fees of women cricketers and bringing it at par with the men's team, Shah said that gender discrimination can't be tolerated. "Upon entering BCCI, I noticed a significant gap in fees between male and female players. We could not tolerate gender discrimination, so we fixed equal fees for both genders through a single decision." Fees for one-day matches (for women's team) increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 6 lakh, for T20 from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh, and for test matches from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 15 lakh. Now, women cricket players can earn up to Rs 40 lakh annually, and if they participate in all formats, they can potentially earn up to Rs. 3.5 crore annually," Shah elaborated.

He underscored the self-sufficiency of the BCCI and encouraged volleyball players to emulate this spirit. "BCCI doesn't rely on government grants and contributes significant tax revenues. Similarly, Volleyball players should work diligently to make the sport self-reliant."

Shah further emphasised the importance of dedication, hard work, nutrition, and rest. He advised players that performance and statistics are pivotal for progress. The BCCI Secretary cited examples of accomplished athletes like Neeraj Chopra, Virat Kohli, Dhoni, and Pragyananda, highlighting the role of statistics in shaping their illustrious careers.



Divya Agarwal steps out of her comfort zone for a drowning scene in web series

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Known for her appearances on reality shows, actress, model and dancer Divya Agarwal has opened up about a drowning scene in the romantic drama series 'Fuh se Fantasy', that pushed her boundaries beyond her comfort zone.

Divya has embarked on a transformative journey with her current role as Anjali in 'Fuh se Fantasy'. The show explores various aspects of personal fantasies.

Talking about the same, Divya said: "The scene that truly tested my limits was when I had to portray drowning. It was challenging because I'm actually a proficient swimmer, and simulating drowning felt unnatural. I found myself repeatedly floating upwards, struggling to get it right. This process took some time and even impacted my well-being, underscoring its difficulty." She added: "Stepping beyond the familiar is a beautiful aspect of our humanity. Personally, I've always embraced this idea, and this project was no exception. Immersing myself in it was genuinely exciting; I didn't need exhaustive preparation. The thrill was akin to a sleepless night before a school field trip, and I'm genuinely happy with the outcome." The show stars Milind Soman, Divya, Arjit Taneja, Nyrraa M. Banerjee, Smaran Sahu, Poulomi Das, Anuj Sachdeva. Delving into the complexities of human emotions, the series paints a vivid canvas of modern relationships that unapologetically embrace their fantasies. This season unfolds in an anthology format, each episode presenting a separate story that delves into the myriad facets of love, passion, and fulfillment. With an artistic blend of enchantment and reality, the characters embark on journeys of self-discovery, entangled in enthralling scenarios that were once confined to their wildest imaginations, but now are coming true.



FROM BEING CONTESTANT TO JUDGE, SHREYA GHOSHAL RECALLS HER JOURNEY IN REALITY SHOWS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Melody queen and prolific singer Shreya Ghoshal, who will be seen as the judge in the season 14 of the 'Indian Idol', said her journey from being a contestant on a reality show, to judging a fan favourite format like this show, has been hard yet rewarding.

The much-acclaimed format is on the hunt for the country's next emerging music sensation, with a soulful voice that is bound to resonate with all. Shreya expressed her excitement about the new season, saying: "Re-entering the vibrant world of Indian Idol feels like a joyful homecoming. I enjoyed my stint as a judge on Indian Idol Junior, but there is an added layer of excitement for this edition of the show, as I have the privilege to reunite with fellow judges Sanu Da and Vishal."

"It's an honour to find and nurture the next wave of Indian talent, and

it's a joy to witness their journey towards becoming India's next singing sensation," she added.

Known for countless hit tracks in her kitty like 'Bairi Piya', 'Silsila Ye Chahat Ka', among numerous others, Shreya further said: "My journey from being a contestant on a reality show to now judging a fan favourite format like Indian Idol has been hard yet rewarding." "Shows like 'Indian Idol' provide budding artists with a national stage to showcase their talent and experience the workings of the music industry.

I have been an avid follower of this show and I am looking forward to commencing the journey as a judge on this highly anticipated season of Indian Idol," she added.

This season of Indian Idol promises to be a remarkable journey headlining the best singing talent of the nation and hopeful contenders are encouraged to seize this chance to fulfil their dreams and potentially become the nation's next beloved singing sensation.

'Will choose scripts wisely, some experiments didn't work,' admits Nawaz



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has said he will be choosing his scripts wisely as some experiments did not go as planned for him. He wants to do only good films now.

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui is one of the most talented actors of today's times. His effortless acting is what wins everyone's heart. The actor will be seen in a suspense drama titled 'Section 108' the teaser of which was launched recently. The teaser of the film showed Nawaz in an impressive avatar. At the teaser launch, the actor spoke about the film, his future projects and more.

Talking about what is in store for his fans for the year 2024, he said: "I really don't know what will happen in 2024. But yes I will be very careful in choosing my scripts. Will choose the scripts wisely now as some experiments did not go

as planned for me. I will try to do only good films now."

About the film Section 108, he said: "It is an amazing story. It is an investigation thriller. My character in the film is very interesting. We will start shooting for the film next month."

The film is being presented by Anees Bazmee. About working with him, he said: "Anees and I wanted to work together for a very long time but nothing concrete was happening. Finally we are doing this film together and I am very happy about it."

'Section 108' is directed by Rashik Khan. It is a suspense drama featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Regina Cassandra in lead roles. The film is presented by Anees Bazmee.

On the workfront, Nawaz will also be seen in 'Haddi' a crime drama directed by Akshat Ajay Sharma. It will stream on ZEE5 from September 7.



KALKI KOEHLIN: 'GOLDFISH' IS SOMETHING I KNEW I WAS CUT OUT FOR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Known for her unconventional body of work, actress Kalki Koechlin, who skillfully portrayed the nuances of her character's emotions in the movie 'Goldfish', said the colour of her skin limits her roles in Bollywood, and this role she knew it was cut out for her.

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap is presenting this stirring drama, which is directed by Pushan Kripalani and produced by Amit Saxena.

Set in London, 'Goldfish' deals with memory, music, mental health and identity. This Indian-British-American production brings together powerhouse talents Deepti Naval, Kalki Koechlin and Rajit Kapur, with some actors from the United Kingdom - Bharti Patel, Gordon Warnecke, Ravin Ganatra and Shanaya Raza - to tell a delicate, timeless story of a mother and a daughter, and of community. Kalki said: "Goldfish was special because complex, layered, sensitive and funny scripts like that are rare to come by. Anyway there are few roles for someone like me in the industry, since the colour of my skin limits my roles in Bollywood, and this being about the identity of a half Indian, half British was something I knew I was cut out for." About her experience of working with Deepti, she said: "It was a pleasure to work with Deepti ji, she is quiet and yet so brilliant and surprising, I was always kept on my toes as she would come up with something on the spot and I'd have to react to it. I loved working with her." The movie marks the return of Kalki to the theaters after four years. Kalki was last seen in 2019 Hindi movie 'Gully Boy', starring Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt. She also starred in 2020 Tamil anthology drama 'Paava Kadhaigal', in the segment 'Love Panna Uttranum' as Penelope. The film revolves around Anamika (Kalki Koechlin), the child of a mixed marriage, who returns home to her estranged mother Sadhana (Deepti Naval) because she is suffering from the onset of dementia. Ana returns to a neighbourhood she barely remembers, to a woman who sometimes doesn't remember her.

Armaan Malik gets engaged to girlfriend Aashna Shroff



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer-songwriter Armaan Malik is now engaged to his fashion influencer girlfriend Aashna Shroff. He announced it on Monday afternoon.

The couple shared this life-defining moment on their respective Instagram handles. The two shared several photographs from the special moment.

In the first image, the singer is seen going down on his knees and putting a ring on Aashna's finger. The second photograph has the two cherishing the moment and laughing.

In the third picture, Armaan is seen giving a soft kiss to Aashna on her forehead.

"And our forever has only just begun," he wrote as the caption. Armaan and Aashna were dating for years and have now, finally made it official.

However, they have not disclosed when they will get married. Armaan is known for his singing in multiple languages, including Hindi, Telugu, English, Bengali, Kannada, Marathi, Tamil, Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu and Malayalam. In 2006, he took part in Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs but was eliminated after finishing eighth. He is the brother of music composer Amaal Mallik.

LAUREN GOTTLIEB GETS ENGAGED TO LONGTIME BEAU TOBIAS JONES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'ABCD 2' actress Lauren Gottlieb on Monday shared that she is engaged to her London-based longtime beau Tobias Jones, in an intimate ceremony. She even shared her romantic moment on social media with her fans.

Lauren made an official announcement about the same on her Instagram handle. She shared a series of photos from her engagement ceremony with Tobias.

She captioned the images: "A million times YES Officially Forever Tobias, you are the man of my dreams!! I always knew there was that perfect combination of a man who is super driven, spontaneous, fun, and wild, and equally as loving, kind, caring, and patient. You are all these things and so much more! After that first phone call we had from Los Angeles to London I just knew we were supposed to be in each others lives. For that year and a half we built the best foundation



of love and respect.

I feel so blessed our paths finally crossed so we could fall in love! Thank you for bringing so much love, joy, and pure happiness in my entire life. I'm the luckiest girl in the world to be your fiancée. The good part has only just begun!!"

Tobias Jones, who is a content creator, shared a mushy note for his ladylove.

He wrote: "Lauren, you are the most beautiful person inside and out and I am truly blessed that I get to spend the rest of my life with you. Since being together I can't imagine life without you and can't wait to continue making memories & experiencing the world together. I knew the perfect woman was out there and I am forever grateful to have found my soulmate."

Lauren Gottlieb participated in 'American dance show So You Think You Can Dance' Season 3 in 2005. She has performed with names such as Mariah Carey, Britney Spears, Shakira Rihanna and Enrique Iglesias.



Ridhi Dogra